

By the Queene.



De Queenes most excellent Maiestie being certainly informed of diuers great spoiles made of the goods lade in a Spanish Carraque lately brought to Dertmouth in Deuonshire, & the same conueied secretly on land to certaine parts of the Realme, as well in Deuonshire, as to the Citie of London, & other Portes and Creekes, and there dispersed and vnlawfully bought by sundry Merchants and Brokers, to the manifest breach of her Maiesties lawes, & to the robbing of her Maiestie of her roiall Customes and Subsidies: hath thought it most necessarie to cause reformation hereof to be made with speed, and the offenders to vnderstand what punishment is due to them, if they shall not speedilie discover and restore the said goods. And therefore her Maiestie straightly chargeth & commandeth all maner of persons that haue taken out or receiued any maner of goods of any value out of the said Carraque, either while she was on the Seas, or since her comming into the hauen of Dertmouth, though the same haue bene taken in the name of pillage, (which was not lawfull to be done by the lawes of the Realme, and the lawes of the Sea, vntill the whole lading were brought into the Port) that they doe within ten dayes after this Proclamation published in any City, Port, Towne or Countie, discover and make knowne to the principall Officer of the place where they shall reside, and deliuer the same to the said Officer to be certified to her Maiestie or her Counsell, or to the w where, and to whom they haue sold, giuen, or deliuered the same. And in such case her Maiestie chargeth all Merchants, Goldsmiths, Jewellers, Smeaten, and all other persons that haue bought or receiued any of the said goods in like sort, within the said time, to discover & deliuer the same, & to declare of whom, and by what means they haue receiued the same without any respect of any mony paid, or bonds giuen for payment thereof. And likewise her Maiestie chargeth all In-keepers or other Housholders, or Owners of any vessels vpon the Sea, where any person shal come with any carriage, wherein there may be suspicion, that any portion of the commodities taken in the said Carraque shalbe bestowed, that the same Housholder or Master of any vessel, shal forthwith giue notice to the next publique Officer thereof, to cause the same to be staied and certified to any person appointed as a Commissioner about the charge of the said Carraque, or to any of the priue Counsel. And all these her Maiesties seuerall commandements she willeth to be obserued vpon paine of imprisonment without baille of the offender, and further punishment against such as so haue robbed the said Carraque, and their abettors and accessaries, as in cases of felonies. And furthermore her Maiestie willeth it to be knowne to all persons, who by reason of their Consort or Aduenture in this late service wherein the Carraque was taken, shal claime any portion out of the goods of the said Carraque, that if it may be proued they haue taken or bought any thing out of the said Carraque before the bringing & the view of her by her Maiesties Commissioners at Dertmouth, without revealing the same to her Maiestie or to her Commissioners, they are by the law to lose all the benefit that they might claime for their aduenture. And to the intent that no Mariner or Soldier, or other that haue aduentured theselues about the taking of the same Carraque should be discouraged in withdrawing from him that which lawfully is to be accounted pillage, her Maiestie mindeth vpon first discovering to her Commissioners of that which any hath taken by name of pillage, the same shalbe considered how farre forth it is to bee iudged pillage, & thereof shal haue allowance besides their due wages, with all lawfull fauour: but without the discoverie thereof to the Officers of the Port where they doe first arrive, they neither ought to enioy any thing by name of pillage, nor yet to haue allowance of wages, or thirds, or such like, but by the lawes of the Sea are punishable for concealing of euery thing so taken. And as her Maiestie hath thought meet at this time to publish these her commandements, especially vpon the notorious spoiles presently made out of this Carraque, so doth she command the like prohibitions & commandements to be obserued, vpon like paines for all maner of spoiles committed vpon any other prizes taken on the Seas this Sommer past, & for time to come doth also command the same to be obserued in the taking of any ship of any Enemy as a prise, to forbear from all spoiles, and not to take any thing out of any prise, vntill the same be brought, viewed, and searched by the Officers of the Portes, whereby her Maiestie may haue her due Customs, and other persons their duties, and the takers of the prizes their portions due to them. Given at the Citie of Orenford the 23. day of September 1592. in the 34. yeere of her Maiesties raigne.

God saue the Queene.

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to the Queenes most excellent Maiestie. 1592.